

2. (twice amended) The method of Claim 1 in which access is prevented by scrambled communication, and permitted by unscrambling the communication, and access to services of the second provider is prevented unless the scrambling method is the same for the first and second providers.


3. (amended) The method of Claim 1, in which the date of first use of the subscription is automatically registered by the apparatus when it is put into use for the first time.

#### R E M A R K S

The present application is a continuation of Serial No. 08/895,467. Claims 4-6 from the originally filed application have been cancelled. Further, claims 1-3 have been amended to reflect the changes made in the parent application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Russell Gross, Reg. 40,007  
Attorney  
(914) 333-9631  
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